

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 10:46:14 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 08:48:33 -0600
Message-Id: <199503151446.IAA21275@uro.theporch.com>
From: "Stephen M. Linscott" <LINSBOT@ricevm1.rice.edu>
Subject: 4CX300A tubes

Does anyone have an amp using these tubes? Please Email me. Thanks.

73 de W5EGP - Steve -

* Steve Linscott, Divisional Consultant - Natural Sciences *
* IS User Services Rice University, Houston, Texas *

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 13:10:55 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 10:12:59 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151111.ZM12106@eehp04>
From: "Gregory Raven Redi" <ravengre@eehp04.comm.mot.com>
Subject: 500 KHZ CW

Greeting Boatanchorites-

After reading Jeffrey Herman's "500kc Series" about his experiences at NMO, I decided to see if there is any activity on the 500 kHz marine calling frequency.

So last night I turned on the old faithful Motorola R390A, and using the calibrator set the dial to exactly 500 kHz. I offset the BFO a little bit away from the center of the IF. I connected the HF2V vertical (Butternut 80 and 40 meter antenna).

500 kHz is the extreme lower frequency limit of the R390A. The mismatch to the 80 meter vertical is to say the least, pretty extreme. And of course, the 60 Hz hum and static crashes were really bad, especially since it was raining which causes the power distribution network in my neighborhood to arc and spark like a demon.

Needless to say, I did not expect to hear anything. Much to my surprise, just a few minutes after firing up the R390A a CW message was blasting through all the noise loud and clear ! Within the next hour or so, I was able to identify 3 stations active on 500 kHz. At least a couple more were heard but not identified. The strongest was WLO.

Has anyone else been monitoring 500 kHz ? I am curious to know what the activity level is on this ancient frequency. What was the impact of the Coast Guard discontinuing the 500 kHz watch on normal ship-to-shore communications ?

73, KF5N

--

Regards,
Greg Raven
Renaissance Engineering
egr002@email.mot.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 16:42:28 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 13:13:49 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151939.AA140597@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>
From: rdkeys@csemail
Subject: Re: 500 KHZ CW

>
> Greeting Boatanchorites-
>
> After reading Jeffrey Herman's "500kc Series" about his experiences at NMO,
> I decided to see if there is any activity on the 500 kHz marine calling
> frequency.

Yeah, nice little ditty, for sure. Others should do likewise, before
the greymatters get too faint in the filaments..... (:+{} }.....

> So last night I turned on the old faithful Motorola R390A, and using the
> calibrator set the dial to exactly 500 kHz. I offset the BFO a little bit
> away from the center of the IF. I connected the HF2V vertical (Butternut 80
> and 40 meter antenna).

A fair installation. The R-390 is not good on the lowest end, but will
receive. Neither are most other receivers with a 455 or 500khz IF.
The R-388 with its 500khz if bleeds through into its front end rather
much. Hence, there is GOOD reason to use a trf set on the 600meters
and lower bands. Plus, most modern all-band tuning ham rigs are absolutely
obnoxious with birdies and noise when tuned down that low.

>
> 500 kHz is the extreme lower frequency limit of the R390A. The mismatch to
> the 80 meter vertical is to say the least, pretty extreme. And of course,
> the 60 Hz hum and static crashes were really bad, especially since it was
> raining which causes the power distribution network in my neighborhood to
> arc and spark like a demon.

I use a 100 foot long wire up to a nearby tree. It works better than
everything else I have tried for LF/MF work.

> Needless to say, I did not expect to hear anything. Much to my suprise,
> just few minutes after firing up the R390A a CW message was blasting through

> all the noise loud and clear ! Within the next hour or so, I was able to
> identify 3 stations active on 500 kHz. At least a couple more were heard
> but not identified. The strongest was WLO.

WLO is one of the best. I rate their services top notch all the way.
Others seem to have slipped over the past 20 years that I have actively
monitored 600 meters. They may not like what I say about them, but that
is my findings over the years.

>From my location on the east coast (about 150 miles inland from the
outer banks of NC) I regularly copy WLO, WCC, WNU, WSC, KFS, VCS, VAU,
HPP, CLA, CLB, CLC, ZBM, and have logged about 30 different shore stations
over the past few years, plus numerous ships, two SOS incidents (have both
on tape), plus the usual USCG NMN, until they went silent key.

> Has anyone else been monitoring 500 kHz ? I am curious to know what the
> activity level is on this ancient frequency. What was the impact of the Coast
> Guard discontinuing the 500 kHz watch on normal ship-to-shore communications ?

There is still a considerable amount of activity on 600-700 meters, and
there is a lot of third world activity which will probably continue even
after the GMDSS era is in full swing, because it is cheap and reliable.
After the older vessels are retired, then the band will be silent.

Navtex is still sent on 518khz and will be under the GMDSS.

Boatanchors make great receivers for the 600-700 meter band, and
many older WWII receivers already cover that stretch of waves.

Check your modern kenicoyasawhooie. It may also receive fair to
mittling down that low.

For those of you with any boatanchor interest in the last gasp of
the USCG on CW, you had better tune in and record the final swan songs
until the end of the month. As of 1 April, 1995, there will be no
more USCG on CW (no bulletins, weather, notices to mariners, traffic,
etc.). The frequencies are 5320khz (although they seem to have vacated
that frequency a few days ago) for International Ice Patrol Bulletins,
at 0050 and 1250utc, 5870khz for 24 hour a day weather, notices, and
even code practice in the evenings from 5-25 wpm, plus their regular
working frequencies that I don't remember right off on 8/12/16 mhz.
Not much goes by there except the onward drone of the call tapes, and
an occasional AMVER msg.

Get it while you can.....

>
> 73, KF5N

>
> --
> Regards,
> Greg Raven
> Renaissance Engineering
> egr002@email.mot.com
>

73/Bob/NA4G
rdkeys@csemail.crops.ci.ncsu.edu

ps. Pleeeeeeeeze folks, try to keep line lengths to less than 75
characters if possible so lines don't inadvertently wrap.

```
*****
* 73 TU SU VA DE NA4G          ``Boat Anchor Bob'', an ol' CW fart. *
*****
* Morse has been in the family for over 100 years.                  *
* Morse radiotelegraphy (Spark/CW) has been in the family since 1914. *
*****
* May you have fair winds and following seas on your watch at the key. *
*****
```

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 18:21:27 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 15:30:39 -0600
Message-Id: <70158@w5ddl.aara.org>
From: n5off@w5ddl.aara.org
Subject: Amelco=Teledyne?

In reference to the Teledyne=Imperial R-390A contract 37856-PC-63
I have several samples of Amelco and Teledyne rig data from 1962
with the same contract number 35064-PC-62.

Does Amelco also equal Teledyne?

I will post the entire list soon after I do some editing, provided
Jack doesn't bust me for posting (this is a warning, Jack :-)

73 de tom

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 13:03:00 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 10:20:32 -0600
Message-Id: <F3FA1814.F3FA1828@mail.admin.wisc.edu>
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: Another BA sighting

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

In the classic film "Bridge on the River Kwai", a #19 transceiver (British design, made in the U.S., and sent to the Russians for Lend-Lease) was spotted being kicked (ARGHHH!) halfway across the jungle by William Holden.

Also, in "Battle Cry" a number of WW2 vintage TBY backpack sets were spotted, with Aldo Ray under the headset / squashing the mike.

A question for the group; in "Tora Tora Tora", a really magnificent transmitter (with filaments lit) is used as set dressing in a briefing room of Admiral Yamamoto's flagship. I'd swear I've seen one like it somewhere; I'm positive it's U.S. surplus. Can anyone out there identify it?

73's,

Mr. T., K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 17:25:53 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 14:23:09 -0600
Message-Id: <9503152015.AA00849@kali>
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Re: Another BA sighting

There is another WWII movie (I think Jeff Chandler is in it) called No Man is an Island, about a radioman caught behind the lines. I think the tx featured in that is the Collins one, boxy, stood up on legs & had a crank generator. TNT runs that one occasionally, watch for it.

--Andy

OK, what's the tube lineup in the Hogan's Heroes clandestine tx?
<grin>

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 17:56:58 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 15:04:41 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151303.ZM25824@mechcad3.engr.sgi.com>
From: "Mark Glusker" <glusk@mechcad3.engr.sgi.com>
Subject: Re: Another BA sighting

In the Beatles movie "Help" there is an RCA AR-88 and a Hallicrafters S-20 (?) in the mad scientist's lab. Almost makes it worth sitting through the rest of the movie.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 08:53:30 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 06:20:31 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151219.AA00489@kali>
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>

Subject: BA magazines

Has anyone here subscribed to RADIO BYGONES from the U.K.? I was wondering how the magazine was, and whether it's worth the U.S. subscription price.

(I saw the ad for it in Shortwave Magazine, which is sold around here in the Barnes and Noble bookstores. They also have Wireless World.)

--Andy

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 14:17:18 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 11:18:42 -0600
Message-Id: <2F6717FA@sharkgate.sandiegoca.attgis.com>
From: "Kenan, Larry" <llk@sandshark.sandiegoca.ATTGIS.COM>
Subject: RE: BA magazines

> Has anyone here subscribed to RADIO BYGONES from the U.K.? I was
> wondering how the magazine was, and whether it's worth the U.S.
> subscription price.
>
> (I saw the ad for it in Shortwave Magazine, which is sold around here
> in the Barnes and Noble bookstores. They also have Wireless World.)
>
> --Andy
>

I read a few issues of RADIO BYGONES when I lived in Ireland a couple of years ago.
It is a good magazine, sort of an ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED in the content of the articles
but without all the classified ads. It is slim, with A4 size pages. I don't recall as to
whether it publishes monthly or bi-monthly.

Naturally the subject matter is vintage British and other European radios. It should
be very interesting to those who are familiar with these and less so to those who
never saw one. I collected a few British radios while I lived in Ireland and found
the magazine to be of great interest.

Larry Kenan - KD6CKR

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 14:53:25 1995

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 12:09:26 -0600
Message-Id: <199503151809.MAA22806@uro.theporch.com>
From: Jack Taylor <n7oo@huachuca-emh8.army.mil>
Subject: Re: Call For Beacon Custodians

Uh, I'm not sure beacons would serve any useful purpose on the HF bands. Six meters, I can understand due to variable propagation effects. As far as I know, there aren't any new propagation surprises in store for us on HF which would warrant beacon research. Specially on 160 meters.

There is a software program called Miniprop (as well as others) that does a VERY nice job of informing one as to HF propagation conditions. These programs will provide a fairly accurate estimate as to what, where, and when band openings occur.

At one time I had a DXer friend who would come for a visit with the purpose in mind of working Asia on 75M phone. He installed a quarter wave elevated vertical antenna on my tower, would use Miniprop to tell him when the openings to Asia occurred, set his alarm clock to the appropriate time, go out to the shack and successfully worked his objectives. Later, back in Ohio (his home QTH) he did the same thing for DXCC on 160 meters...

73 de Jack

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 18:21:31 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 15:39:27 -0600
Message-Id: <950315213513_71333.144_DHQ64-1@CompuServe.COM>
From: don merz <71333.144@compuserve.com>
Subject: CQ Rag Otterstadt

Rag Otterstadt:

Please send me e-mail ASAP. Intertrans still cannot find you. I strongly suggest that you contact Intertrans in Copenhagen immediately and have them call their Pittsburgh office ASAP.

Don.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 01:18:38 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 22:31:12 -0600
Message-Id: <Chameleon.4.01.2.950315232844.jproc@>
From: jproc@worldlinx.com
Subject: CW on 500 Khz

Dear Ba's,

The E-mail from Bob Keys on the subject of 500 khz CW was of special

interest to me due to my involvement with shipboard radios. It's sad to see the various CW services shutting down one by one but that's the price of progress.

As of September 1, 1993 the Royal Canadian Navy ceased all CW related services including training. A special plaque was presented to HMCS Haida to denote this event and here is the exact reproduction of the message:

NAWS

C13L001

R 312300Z AUG 93

FM MSAX MILL COVE

TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS C13L

BT

UNCLAS

1. SEPTEMBER 1, 1993, HAVING BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE DATE IN WHICH REGULAR CW SERVICE CEASES IN THE CANADIAN NAVY, THIS IS THE FINAL OCCASION WHEN SPARKERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THIS DYING ART TO USE

2. FOR THOSE WHO CAN RECALL QUOTE BENS BEST BREAD UNQUOTE WILL ALWAYS BE RHYTHM ON THE TIPS OF THE FINGERS

3. AS WE ENTER INTO THIS NEW ERA THE MEMBERS OF THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT AT MILL COVE WISH TO SAY ONE LAST TIME R R C U L OM QRU

QRU AR

BT

6 MHZ TOR 2310Z W.O.

By the way, one good radio for 500 Khz reception is the RAK5. It's a regenerative design but it sure outperforms some superheterodynes, especially at the lower end of the radio spectrum.

Regards,

Jerry Proc, VE3FAB

E-mail: jproc@worldlinux.com

Radio Restoration Volunteer

HMCS Haida, Toronto Ontario

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 05:46:35 1995

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:37:34 -0600

Message-Id: <950315043343_72411.533_HHB41-1@CompuServe.COM>
From: Joe Roberts <72411.533@compuserve.com>
Subject: Dual speed knob

I thought it would be a nice touch to add a dual speed knob to some of the fast tunin' radios around the shack. Had something in mind along the lines of a Swan tuning knob, a device I always liked, perched on the end of my R-390A VFO shaft.

I have a few Jackson ball drives that allow 6:1 and straight thru operation but where can I snag a proper dual concentric knob to fit it? Did the Swan gear use Jackson Drives? There are plenty of rusty Siltronix 10m VFOs kicking around here in Texas just begging for a legitimate "type accepted" application for the knob. Of course, when I start looking for one they'll all disappear!

I read an article in an old 73 about doing this but the parts list was essentially WRL's address-- the part they used was a Globe Duo-Bander spare. Won't help me much in '95.

Any suggestions for sources on rounding up the required hardware for a smooth dual-speed knob greatly appreciated!

73

Joe N4WQC
Austin, TX

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 12:18:39 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 08:46:08 -0600
Message-Id: <Chameleon.4.01.950315094142.dgibbs@meninx.ppp.verdix.com>
From: "R. Dennis Gibbs" <dgibbs@rational.com>
Subject: FOR SALE: R-1051B/URR HF Receiver

Greetings all,

I have for sale a Military R-1051B/URR HF receiver. It works well and is in excellent condition. The cabinet has several scuff and scrape marks but the front panel is excellent. It also comes with the matching Shock Mount. Due to the weight of this unit, I won't ship it as shipping would cost too much and it would be difficult to package it properly to prevent damage. I am willing to drive within a 100

mile radius of the Washington DC area, however, if this would help.

Price is \$325 or best offer.

Dennis Gibbs

dgibbs@rational.com

(703) 761-4496 (Weekdays, leave message on machine if I'm not in), or

(703) 742-9843 (Evenings before 9PM EST)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 13:03:00 1995

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 10:17:01 -0600

Message-Id: <F3FA1529.F3FA1552@mail.admin.wisc.edu>

From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu

Subject: Free Crystal Update

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Greetings, Troops!

Well, at long last, I got the time to get MOST of the requests for free crystals out. I'd have gotten them all, but I ran out of packing materials! The last half dozen or so should get out early next week. Sorry it took so long, but I suddenly got very busy here.

The packages have 24 crystals each, and mailing is averaging \$3.00 each. When your package arrives, drop a check to the return address on the package. No big rush on it.

Tom, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 10:11:56 1995

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:42:40 -0600

Message-Id: <Chameleon.4.01.2.950314234032.jproc@jproc>

From: jproc@worldlinx.com

Subject: FW: Re: D104 Microphone question

In response to several queries, here are some sources for Asatic microphone elements as supplied by BA members:

1) Rick Blank

KI5SL

ki5sl@sat.ampr.org

2223 Blanco Rd.

San Antonio Texas

78212

- 2) Astatic cartridges are available from any HRO outlet
- 3) Conneaut Technologies
Conneaut Ohio
No phone number available. They do not sell direct but will provide distributor info.
- 4) Amateur Electronics Supply - no phone number or city was supplied.
- 5) Astatic is still in business in Milwaukee
Wisc. 1-800-558-0411.

Regards,

Jerry Proc, VE3FAB
Radio Restoration Volunteer
HMCS Haida
E-mail: jproc@worldlinx.com
Toronto, Ontario

-----End of Original Message-----

Jerry Proc, VE3FAB
E-mail: jproc@worldlinx.com
Radio Restoration Volunteer
HMCS Haida, Toronto Ontario

From SGALLAGHER@delphi.com Wed Mar 15 12:50:19 1995
From: SGALLAGHER@delphi.com
Subject: G&A New 800#
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 12:20:33 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <46682B7A2A@chaos.cc.ncsu.edu>

To better serve our customers, G&A Consultants ("Your OS/2 Experts")

now have an 800 number. It's 800-541-6574. If you're away from home and need to get hold of us, don't hesitate to use it.

PS: stop by our booth at the Small Business Expo April 20th at the Civic Center and say "Hey"! :-)

Steve Gallagher G&A Consultants 919-467-4433 ganda@ibm.net
OS/2 Services Internet Web Services <http://www.ganda.com>

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 17:57:16 1995

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 15:08:47 -0600

Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950315154901.6443A-100000@laurel.us.net>

From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>

Subject: Re: Info? Heath VF-1 and more...

On Tue, 14 Mar 1995 Brien Pepperdine wrote:

> Hello. An enquiry from curiosity - I acquired a Heath VF-1 with the
> intent to drive my Viking II on 160m. at least (it came with a
> Hallicrafters HT-18 (?) vfo for all bands except 160). Anyhow, I see a
> lot of similarities in design of the VF-1 and the Johnson 122 vfo (based
> on photo and description in the manual) physically as well as tubes used.
> Is the Heath a knockoff of the Johnson 122? How similar are they - pretty
> much directly the same (I HOPE) ?

Brien,

As a bit of confirmation, Stu Meyer, W2GHK(SK), a former executive with the E.F. Johnson Company and the last president of Hammarlund, used to live here and was a good and reliable source for information on Johnson (and of course Hammarlund). I had asked him something about the Johnson 122 VFO, but he didn't have the specific 122 data. Stu sent Heath VF-1 articles and said in part, "I am also enclosing information on the Heath VF-1 VFO which is a copy of the Johnson Viking."

It has been a while and I can't remember exactly what it was I wanted to know, but I do recall that I got the answer from the Heath information Stu sent.

73,

Tony
K4KY0

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 12:20:29 1995

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 09:31:38 -0600

Message-Id: <9503151530.AA06315@london.oh.tekelec.com>
From: lstolz@tekelec.com (Lynn Stolz)
Subject: More SX-100 Questions

If I examine manufacturing dates on components of my SX-100 receiver in the format YYWW, what range of dates would I expect if the receiver is a Mark IA?

Does anyone know of approximate manufacturing dates of the various series of SX-100's? BTW, I'm certain that this receiver is not a Mark 2, since it does not have the "later-model" knobs.

Lynn - N8AJ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 14:26:34 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 11:40:57 -0600
Message-Id: <199503151738.JAA28719@ix4.ix.netcom.com>
From: jlockwd@ix.netcom.com (Jim Lockwood)
Subject: Re: More SX-100 Questions

You wrote:

>
>If I examine manufacturing dates on components of my SX-100 receiver in
>the format YYWW, what range of dates would I expect if the receiver is
>a Mark IA?

The SX-100 was introduced around 1955. The QST product review was in either the December '54 issue or the December '55 issue, I believe. So this sets a probable lower bound on the production date codes. I'd allow for, oh, 0 to maybe 4 months leeway on component date codes to the likely time the receiver itself was built.

I have a Mark 2 that, if memory serves, has dates in the '59 range. I believe the design stabilized with the Mark 2 (and its minor variants the 2A and 2A/B) and continued through end of production. I believe SX-100s were still being advertised by hallicrafters as late as 1964.

73,

Jim - km6nk/4

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 09:14:50 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 06:27:15 -0600
Message-Id: <199503150549.VAA07493@hobbes.UCSC.EDU>
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Note on the R-390A census

I reported one where the name plate says Imperial Electronics, Inc. contract 37856-PC-63, Serial 41. Now most or all of the subassemblies inside say Teledyne Systems Corp. and the same contract number and serial numbers up in the thousands. So I'm wondering if Imperial is a front for Teledyne, or if this is a case like Helena Rubenstein all over again.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 09:54:57 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 07:48:06 -0600
Message-Id: <2F670BB9@MSMGATE.TRACOR.COM>
From: "Kasprzyk, Emil" <EFK@eng2.tracor.com>
Subject: RE: Note on the R-390A census

Teledyne was on a big acquisition kick in the 1960s. I know for a fact that Teledyne made R-390A modules at their Marina del Rey plant in Los Angeles in the 1960s up until the early 1970s.

Emil F. Kasprzyk KC5IZ WPE5IE

>From: boatanchors
>To: Multiple recipients of list
>>Subject: Note on the R-390A census
>Date: Wednesday, March 15, 1995 6:27AM

>I reported one where the name plate says Imperial Electronics, Inc.
>contract 37856-PC-63, Serial 41. Now most or all of the subassemblies
>inside say Teledyne Systems Corp. and the same contract number and serial
>numbers up in the thousands. So I'm wondering if Imperial is a front
>for Teledyne, or if this is a case like Helena Rubenstein all over again.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 14:47:05 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 12:05:49 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151806.AA21670@wrdis01.robins.af.mil>
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry Keith)
Subject: Pre-Dayton Sale # 6

OK... Still trying to raise money for the big hamfest...

Collins R-390A Receiver, excellent condition with covers and meters. \$375

Drake R-4A/T-4X/AC-3/MS-4 Good condition. New finals installed in T-4X (need to finish neutralization). This has been my main rig for the past two years. With manuals. \$325

Drake TR-4C/RV-4C/AC-4. Good condition. Finals may be soft and calibration is off about 2 kc. This was my previous main rig. I

have had it since 1987 or so. \$275

Heathkit Marauder Transmitter (Parts unit). No cabinet. Missing some crystals and knobs. \$20

Lysco Transmaster Transmitter. Good cosmetic condition. Have never plugged it in. Missing dial cord and low pass filter housing is bent. With Manual. \$125.

HP608D Signal Generator. 10 to 420 mc. Lights up and puts signals out. Didn't see any meter movements. Low output? Looks complete and OK. Heavy! \$50

8122 Tubes. Used. Pulled from military equipment because output did not meet specs. Sold subject to your test. \$25 each. Only two left.

Power Transformer, Primary 105 to 125 VAC, Secondaries: 900 VCT @ .25 Amp, 6.3 V @ 8 Amp, 5.0 V @ 2 amp. Removed from military equipment, but look pretty good. Some minor rust and some scratched paint. \$15 each + \$8 shipping.

Watkins-Johnson R-1401 VLF Receiver (1-600 kc), Looks good, working, with manual (copy) \$375

Gonset G-63 Receiver in custom wood cabinet. Ham bands only (includes 6 meters). Working, good condition. \$75

Motorola R-220 AM/FM/CW 20-200 mc receiver. Working, good condition, with covers. \$200.

A pair of PRC-25's with all accessories. Working, good condition. \$700 for the pair.

University Labs Speaker Driver, 8 ohms, 75 watts. NIB. \$25 each. (Now if I just had the horns... 8-))

Shipping is not included in listed prices. If you want more info or a shipping quote please email. Include your zip code if you need a shipping quote.

Trades always considered...

73,

Larry, KQ4BY
lakeith@robins.af.mil
Warner Robins, GA 31088

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 00:54:22 1995
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:02:47 -0600
Message-Id: <Pine.SGI.3.90.950314230023.342A-100000@umbc7.umbc.edu>
From: Bill Robie <robie@umbc.edu>
Subject: Re: R-388 drum setscrew free at last!

On Tue, 14 Mar 1995, Nina West wrote:

> Thanks to everybody that gave me advice on the frozen setscrew. What
> finally broke it free was a soldering gun tip wrapped around the wrench
> and a little bit of heat. The threads had some loose green gunk on them.
[...]

It kinda sounds like someone might have put Loctite on that set screw in the
past.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 01:30:06 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 23:05:51 -0600
Message-Id: <Pine.PCW.3.91.950315185709.7871B-100000@dip039.pixi.com>
From: Dave Creek <dcreek@pixi.com>
Subject: Re: R-388 drum setscrew free at last!

> > Thanks to everybody that gave me advice on the frozen setscrew. What
> > finally broke it free was a soldering gun tip wrapped around the wrench
> > and a little bit of heat. The threads had some loose green gunk on them.
> [...]
>
> It kinda sounds like someone might have put Loctite on that set screw in the
> past.

In the 50's and 60's it was standard practice at Collins Radio to apply a
blue-green colored glyptal to all set screws. I've seen this on R-388's,
ARC-27 UHF AM Aircraft Transceivers, and MD-83A Modulators. I used to
have several 1 oz bottles with a small brush in the cap. The label had a
USAF stock number and a Collins part number on the label.

Dave Creek NH6BA
Ewa Beach, HI

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 00:40:27 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 16:50:57 -0600
Message-Id: <70194@w5ddl.aara.org>
From: n5off@w5ddl.aara.org
Subject: R-390A Survey Results/Questions

from n5off%w5ddl.aara.org@usl.edu

Shown below are the results of a rackup of R-390A's that users here on BA, and other places have contributed to me. The goal was to try to get a handle on the number of units built, and the number of contracts let for the rigs. I don't plan to regularly post this survey, so feel free to pass it around yourselves. More contributions are welcome, however.

It was interesting to read all the input from various users that related experiences to me from military careers, and hamfest stories.

I have drawn a few conclusions from this informal survey and I will list these below. Please feel free to send additional input, as I will add any and all to the list.

Conclusions (or Questions):

Collins made a lot more R-390A's than most folks think. Ray Moore, in his 3rd edition of the book "Communications Receivers" says that Collins made only 525 sets. If you believe that serial numbers run in order (serially), then I've concluded that Collins made at least 4600 +- in three different contracts.

Total production was at minimum 27,800 including the EAC commercial rigs. Ray Osterwald reported seeing s.n.'s as high as 4800, which would put total production closer to 67,000. If this survey had more examples, I'm sure higher numbers would surface. The highest s.n. in any contract seen was 6140 in an EAC contract.

There may be some uncommon production contracts out there. I have heard from users that they have seen (but don't have) rigs from Remington, Dittmore-Freimuth, and the cosmetics maker Helena-Rubenstein. The comments on the H-R company production was that H-R bought 80 rigs from Collins to satisfy their low bid obligation, and didn't actually make any. Osterwald in ER reported contracts by Clavier and Comm Systems, but none of those surfaced in this survey. Another example of a contract that did not surface was the 1965 Stewart Warner contract.

Users commented on the front panels. Collins rigs have silk screened labels. Capehart labels, for example, are engraved

or stamped into the metal.

As Osterwald reported in ER, the EAC rigs of 1967 show two different order numbers, but these seem to actually be the same order.

I got two contributions from a 1962 Teledyne contract which had the same order number as the 1962 Amelco contract. Did Teledyne buy Amelco?

Remaining Questions:

Of the rigs that the military has kept, are they of a specific production run, or are there cats and dogs sleeping together?

I checked with the Army historian at Fort Monmouth, N.J. His conclusion was that the only makers were Collins and EAC. Does anyone believe this? "Who ya gonna believe, me or your own eyes", Chico Marx.

73 de tom n5off

Survey results follow:

Additions to:
n5off%w5ddl.aara.org@usl.edu
n5off@k5arh.la.usa
3/15/95

Maker	Con Yr	Contract	S.N.
Collins	1951	14214-PH-51	7
Collins	1951	14214-PH-51	372
Collins	1954	375-P-54	146
Collins	1954	375-P-54	192
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	466
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	502
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	507
Motorola ;>2	1954	363-PH-54	954
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	1388

Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	1755
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	1903
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	2035
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	removed
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	4
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	642
Collins	1955	8719-PH-55	868
Collins	1955	8719-PH-55	1093
Collins	1955	8719-PH-55	2220
Collins	1955	8719-PS-55	2816
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3001
Collins	1955	8719-PH-55	3384
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3402
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3471
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3556
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3629
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3705
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3796
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	3902
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	4125
Motorola	1956	0014-PH-56	431
Motorola	1956	0014-PH-56	568
Motorola	1956	0;s?-PH-56	1944
Motorola	1956	0014-PH-56	3122
Motorola	1958	14385-PC-58	311
Stewart-Warner	1959	42428-PC-59	1079
Stewart-Warner	1959	42428-PC-59	1408
Electronic Assistance Corp	1960	23137-PC-60	206
Electronic Assistance Corp	1960	23137-PC-60	237
Electronic Assistance Corp	1960	23137-PC-60	941
Stewart-Warner	1960	20139-PC-60	2772
Stewart-Warner	1960	20139-PC-60	removed
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	285
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	1152
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	1351
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	1927
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	1963
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	2379
Amelco	1962	35064-PC-62	75
Amelco	1962	35064-PC-62	1179
Amelco	1962	35064-PC-62	1711
Teledyne Systems Corp	1962	35064-PC-62	2801
Teledyne Systems Corp	1962	35064-PC-62	3642
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	31
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	41
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PG-55	63
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	1250
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	1591

Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	2220
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	2248
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	3011
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	3022
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	83
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-C-0155	388
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-36-039-N-00189 E	620
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	1053
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-C-0155	1212
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-C-0155	2218
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-C-0155	2865
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	2890
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	4781
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-D-0155	5454
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	5876
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	6140
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	478
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	DAAB05-67-C-0155	2243-1
Electronic Assistance Corp	1968?	commercial	115
Clavier Corp	1967	None reported in survey	
Dittmore-Freimuth	1968	None reported in survey	
Remington Co		None reported in survey	
Helena Rubenstein		None reported in survey	
Comm Systems		None reported in survey	

Listed by yr, order, and highest

Collins	1951	14214-PH-51	372
Collins	1954	375-P-54	192
Motorola	1954	363-PH-54	2035
Collins	1955	8719-P-55	4125
Motorola	1956	0014-PH-56	3122
Motorola	1958	14385-PC-58	311
Stewart-Warner	1959	42428-PC-59	1408
Electronic Assistance Corp	1960	23137-PC-60	941
Capehart	1961	21582-PC-61	2379
Teledyne Systems Corp	1962	35064-PC-62	3642
Imperial Electronics	1963	37856-PC-63	3022
Electronic Assistance Corp	1967	FR-36-039-N-6-00189(E)	6140
Electronic Assistance Corp	1968?	commercial	115
		Total of high s.n.'s	27804

Contributors

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Jim Haynes, David Upton
John Barnard
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KE6FOW
N2LXM
N9LLO
N02W
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W1NU
WB1EYX
WD8DAS
Barbara Fehner
K06BB
KB6CYS
AA6DF
N2WXF
Joe Selkregg
Neil Anderson

z

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 19:02:45 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 16:09:11 -0600
Message-Id: <199503152207.RAA15058@latte.eng.umd.edu>
From: Philip Gwynne McCoy <dgnova@glue.umd.edu>
Subject: RADIO BYGONES MAGAZINE

In reply to Andy Wallace's question about RADIO BYGONES magazine:

The format is as follows:

4 high quality color photographs of old radios. The photos are sharp, the color plates are aligned. Something you don't see in many publications.

Material covered is:

1. Communication equipment. example WS-18. This was a battery operated field radio transmitter and receiver used by british forces during the 1939-1945 war. The description covered wiring diagrams, setup and operational notes. Much more than a US publication would give you about american equipment.
2. Ships radio equipment. The editor was a ship's radio officer.
2. Home radios. restoration, description etc. Example, receiver supplied to british civilians during the war.
3. Old timers memories. Example: A description of Eddystone written by Eddystone staff. (Eddystone manufactured communication receivers.)
4. Some spy radios or radios used by civilians in occupied countrys.

I find it very worth while, however its slant is british.

You can order it at:

Wise Owl Worldwide PUblications
4314 West 238 th Street
Torrance CA 90505-4509
USA.
Tel (310)-375-6258

I ordered directly using visa tel: 01144 1202 658474

(don't for get the 5 hour time difference)

Incase you haven't noticed I am a very enthusiastic reader.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 14:42:16 1995

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 11:40:19 -0600

Message-Id: <F3FB3704.F3FB3719@mail.admin.wisc.edu>

From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu

Subject: Re. 4CX300A Tubes

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Of all the tubes available for ham gear, the 4CX300A is probably the LAST one I'd choose. I've dealt with 'em in FM broadcast service as drivers (Gates

/ Harris used them in thier 10 KW rigs for awhile), and they were a royal pain in the butt.

Electrically, they're essentially identical to the 4CX250 series (plate dissipation is only 250 watts, despite the 300 in the number).

The main hassle with 'em is the wierd "breech block" base connections. This was used to keep down lead inductance inside the tube, allowing it to be used at a higher frequency (theoretically). Inserting the tube into the socket correctly is difficult; it can easily be inserted WRONG, and by looks and feel it appears RIGHT. In addition, there are SEVERAL wrong insertion modes. It's also easy to damage the contact fins that engage the socket. This was a whole lot of fun in the Gates rig. The driver sockets were awkwardly placed, and in a spot where you couldn't see 'em.

If you're asking about the tube with an eye toward building a new rig, I'd think twice about it if I were you, unless (A) you've already got some good sockets, and (B) you're getting a lot of good tubes for free.

Unless those criteria are met, I'd consider the tubes to be challenging pistol targets ;-)

73's,

Tom "Mr. T." Adams, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 00:10:41 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 17:47:54 -0600
Message-Id: <F3FH4617.F3FH4627@mail.admin.wisc.edu>
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: Re. 500 KHz CW

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Re. R-390A extreme low end:

The 500 KHz mark is the DESIGNED low end of the radio, but when you translate a paper design into a real radio, things aren't that cut and dried.

As Bob points out, the radios aren't at thier best at the low end of the coverage range, but they DO work. If the front end is aligned as per the book, I find it's adequate somewhat BELOW 500 KHz. All of mine are pretty usable down to about 475 KHz, which allows me to QSY for KPH and WLO weather broadcasts.

At the moment, I keep a BC-348Q tuned to 500 KHz whenever I'm in the shack, suckin' in signals from a 160 Windom (243' flat top, about 25' up). The old 348 will definitely outperform an R-390 or 390A there. There is

more sophisticated longwave weaponry in the shack, but the BC-348 is the most convenient for standing watch on 500.

Of late, I've been concentrating on improving performance there, and on a regular basis I'm getting (at night, of course) KPH (San Francisco), VCS (Cape Race, Newfoundland???), WLO (Lorraine, OH), WNU (Slidell, LA), and on rare occasions, WCC (Amagansett, Long Island). When conditions are REALLY good I can even hear the occasional ship; not bad for a landlocked landlubber in Wisconsin, 1000 miles from blue water!

I was rather surprised to find that the receiver section of my Kenwood TS-140S transceiver does a creditable job on 600 metres, tho front end overload from an AM broadcaster makes things interesting.

I was talking to a guy on 16 metres last week who was operating Maritime Mobile. He told me that in most areas of the world the bulk of his traffic is carried by satellite, and firing up the CW transmitter is a rare occurrence. However, when he gets into the Med, parts of the Indian Ocean, and around the bulge of Africa, 500 KHz is still in it's heyday, with all the boys hammering away in thier full brass plated glory.

Tom, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 02:52:30 1995
Date: Thu, 16 Mar 1995 00:09:36 -0600
Message-Id: <9503160607.AA24135@bobcat.etsu.edu>
From: wier@bobcat.etsu.edu (Bob Wier)
Subject: Re: Re. 500 KHz CW

At 5:47 PM 3/15/95 -0600, TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu wrote:

|to: boatanchors@theporch.com

|

| Re. R-390A extreme low end:

|

| The 500 KHz mark is the DESIGNED low end of the radio, but when you translate a paper design into a real radio, things aren't that cut and dried.

|

etc about LF work...

Thought I'd mention that several weeks ago, I inquired about LF beacons (mostly airport) which I ran across during a long boring drive cross country. Thanks to several people who pointed me in the right direction (there *are* navigation tools, no?)

: -)

I found the database. Using a Perl script, I broke out the fields which look the most useful for someone just tuning around and finding a carrier

with a Morse ID. The list is somewhat large, sorted on call. Most entries are < 500 KHz, A few are up in then 110 Mhz range.

If you want to grab a copy, feel free. It's on bobcat.etsu.edu available via anonymous ftp.

It's in:

ftp/pub/misc

and is named:

```
-rwxr--r--  1 wier      system    162817 Mar 16 00:01 air.beacons
```

This is a text file.

73 de WB5KXH ...

```
--      Round Up the Usual Disclaimers!      --  
Bob Wier, CS Dept., East Texas State University  
  wier@bobcat.etsu.edu - keeper of the  
    Motorola MC68HC11, Photo-3D, SD3D,  
Icom Radio and Overland Trails mailing lists
```

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 12:02:14 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 09:15:27 -0600
Message-Id: <9503151514.AA05774@london.oh.tekelec.com>
From: lstolz@tekelec.com (Lynn Stolz)
Subject: Re: Switch cleaning

I have been extremely pleased with LPS-1 as a lubricant for switches.

Lynn - N8AJ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 18:06:56 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 15:15:52 -0600
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950315160104.6443B-100000@laurel.us.net>
From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>
Subject: Re: Switch Cleaning

On Tue, 14 Mar 1995 jproc@worldlinux.com wrote:

Dear BA's,

In reference to the recent message about cleaning dirty switch contacts,
I
remember reading about a solution many years ago.

> Mix lighter fluid and Vaseline (heavier on the fluid and light on the
> Vaseline). Brush the solution on the switch contacts and work the switch
> back and forth many times. The lighter fluid will act as a cleaner and
> will evaporate after a while leaving a very thin film of Vaseline on the
> contacts. This is probably preferable to dabbing Vaseline directly on the
> contacts.

Jerry,

I would be a little concerned about the lighter fluid attacking
insulation, etc. as I believe it's a petroleum product. (Naphtha?) I've
used a soft toothbrush and alcohol with good success.

73,

Tony
K4KY0

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 19:58:25 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 16:42:19 -0600
Message-Id: <Pine.ULT.3.91.950315165751.10507A-100000@dua150.kpt.emn.com>
From: "Barry L. Ornitz" <ornitz@EMNGW1.emn.com>
Subject: Re: Switch Cleaning [solvents]

On Wed, 15 Mar 1995, Tony Stalls K4KY0 wrote:

> I would be a little concerned about the lighter fluid attacking
> insulation, etc. as I believe it's a petroleum product. (Naphtha?) I've
> used a soft toothbrush and alcohol with good success.

Other than the flammability problem, naphtha is probably a good solvent
for cleaning dried grease from switches, etc. Lighter fluid is a good
source but naphtha can often be bought in hardware and paint stores too.
It is less likely than most alcohols to dissolve usual plastics.
Alcohols will often cause surface crazing in many plastics so watch out
before using them on meter or dial faces. If in doubt, test any solvent
before using it on an important piece of equipment. Avoid acetone and
ketones around any plastic parts. Also avoid benzene, toluene, and xylene.

Naphtha is a non-polar solvent while alcohols are polar. This means that
they preferentially dissolve different materials. Sometimes you need a
mixture of the two (to remove rosin after soldering, for example). Wood
alcohol (methanol) is generally more aggressive than ethanol (drinking

stuff) which is more aggressive than rubbing alcohol (isopropanol).

IN ALL CASES WHEN USING SOLVENTS IN THE HAM SHACK OR AT THE WORKBENCH...
Don't be stupid and use them around flames or other sources of ignition.
Make sure you are in a well-ventilated area as the fumes will often make
you drunk and in some cases may be rather toxic. Keep a fire extinguisher
handy and know how to use it.

I am surprised that no one has mentioned the universal cleaning tool - the
pipe cleaner. These things are still sold. Also find a friend who is
diabetic and ask for a few of his used syringes. The typical U-100
diabetic syringe holds a very small quantity of liquid and the needle is
really tiny. They are ideal for squirting a smidgeon (engineering dialect
for several micro-ounces) of oil into bearings. Oil and solvents quickly
destroy the plunger in these syringes but your diabetic friend should give
you all you need. Wash them with water first (capacitor bearings rarely
require insulin) and let dry before using. Be careful not to prick
yourself (AIDS and hepatitis risk and all that). New U-100 syringes cost
about 13 to 16 cents each but you have to buy a hundred.

73, Barry WA4VZQ
ornitz@emn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Mar 16 01:22:43 1995
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 22:55:16 -0600
Message-Id: <9503160454.AA11750@kahuna.math.hawaii.edu>
From: jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu (Jeffrey Herman)
Subject: The 500 kc story

Gang,

I sent my 500 kc series to QST's editor and got a rejection letter.
He liked it very much but due to printing costs etc they're restricting
content to just ham articles. That's okay, since I think the series
belongs in something of a vintage flavor. I really don't think many
of today's hams can appreciate its content.

So, any suggestion as to which publications might be interested?
I'm not looking for money, just fame... ;)

Seriously, I just want this stuff preserved - it would be a sorry
event if the operating procedures and such were lost to history.

73 from Hawaii,
Jeffrey NH6IL (ex WA6QIJ)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 09:23:12 1995

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:30:42 -0600
Message-Id: <199503150429.AA09176@teal.csn.org>
From: dickgray@csn.net (Dick Gray)
Subject: Vacuum Tube Data

Hi,
I am looking for any available specs on the following tubes. VT-155, VT-156, VT-157, VT-158, VT-159, VT-160, VT-186, CEP220, 15G, & 6IT6. I have a VT to commercial sheet but it only lists the above vt's as special tubes. Any assistance is appreciated.

Dick Gray
dickgray@csn.org

From boatanchors@theporch.com Wed Mar 15 09:56:16 1995
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:53:51 -0600
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9503142343.A2254-0100000@indy1>
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@indynet.indy.net>
Subject: Re: was: Switch cleaning, now: connector clean?

Hi!

On Tue, 14 Mar 1995, Fire Bottle archive handler wrote:
> [...] ideas for cleaning the "gunk" off some hardline connectors that
> were weatherproofed and need to be re-used!
>
> I have thought of petro-chemicals, but I don't want the insulting
> materials to go away...

The insulting material (so what if it's a typo? I *like* it!) on a typical Andrew-or-clone hardline connector is PTFE: shockproof, anti-magnetic, immune to unAmerican influences and unlikely to be harmed by most hardware-store solvents. The jacket (what is this flavor of "hardline?" Heliax? CATV hardline and ex-waterpipe rigid copper line used in broadcast apps isn't jacketed) will be a weather-resistant PVC of some kind, and won't like "Carbo-Chlor" or naphtha very much. The dielectric, either foamed stuff or a helical widget, is most probably a member of the Teflon family and pretty inert.

Denatured alcohol might be the stuff to try first--or even bacon grease followed by ammonia and denatured alk to get the grease off! Try to keep the alcohol off the jacket, as it may tend to make it less weatherproof. If those don't work, I'd try Carbo-Chlor. Don't get it on your sunglasses--and for sure be careful of the PVC jacket!

> don't know what, beyond "coax-seal" like

> stuff, the "gunk" is made of, so I am not sure what to use as a
> solvent to clean these guys up...

The stuff Andrew sends out is essentially high-tech tar; but most of their connectors use O-rings and any extra goop is *not* needed--Andrew supplies it with grounding kits so you can seal the jacket up where it is cut. Some of the connectors use a thick, glue-like substance that dries brownish and will probably require the harsher chemicals to remove; the tar is black stuff, as are perished O-rings+vacuum grease, which supposedly doesn't eat them up but has been known to; Heavens forfend some ninny having used Vaseline instead of the right stuff when the connectors were assembled!

Good luck!

73,
--Bobbi